

Decoding the MAHC

The Model Aquatic Health Code

The MAHC is a free resource based on science and best practices. Government agencies and the aquatics sector can use the MAHC to make swimming and other water activities healthier and safer.

300
million

Trips people in the U.S. make to pools and other bodies of water

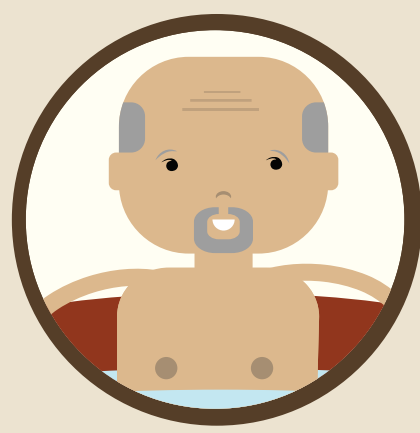
People who swim can enjoy



Increased physical & mental health



Lower risk for chronic diseases, joint & muscle pain, death



Increased quality of life & decreased disability in older age

The Problem

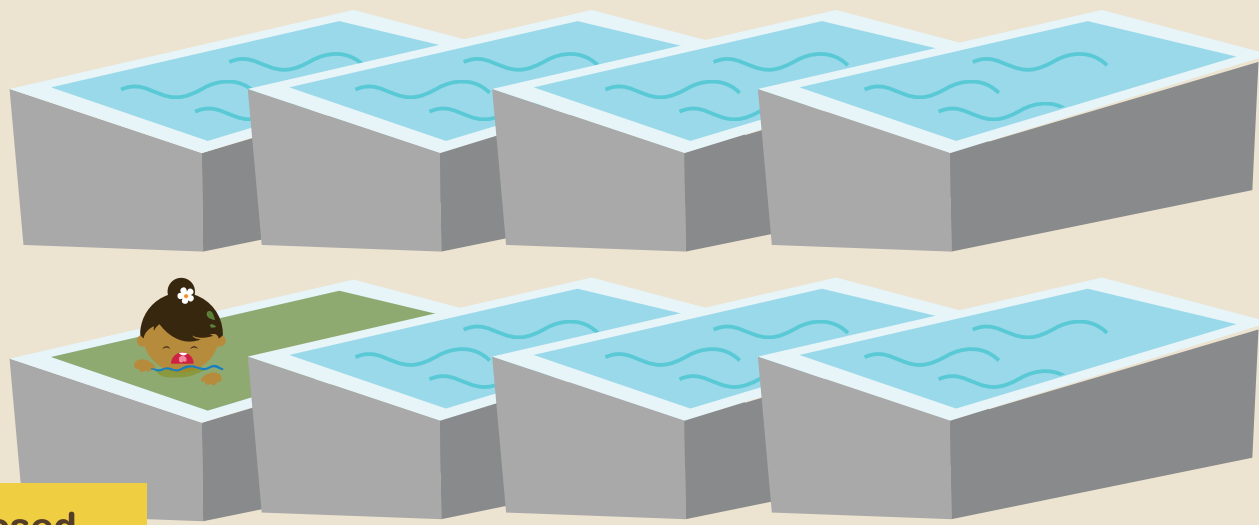
But some places we swim aren't healthy or safe.

1 in 8

Pools closed immediately on routine inspection for critical health and safety problems



Pool Closed



Almost 1/3 of local health departments do not regulate, inspect, or license public pools, hot tubs, and water playgrounds at all.

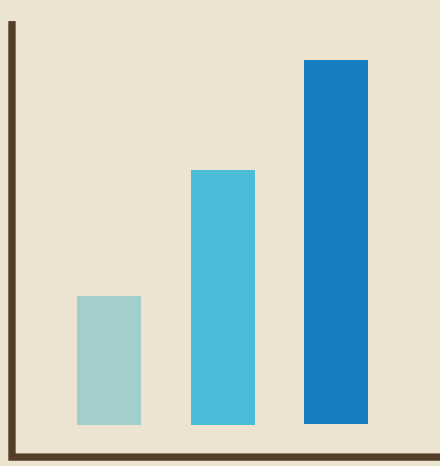
Problems can lead to

Drowning



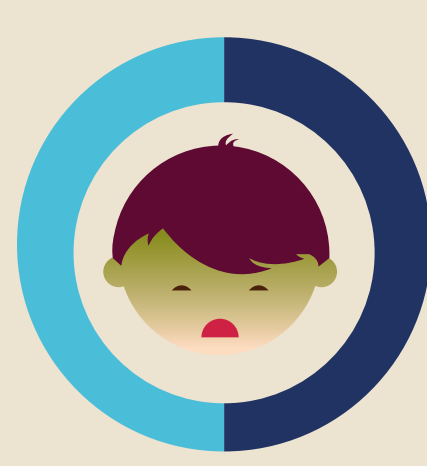
- A leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages 1–14 years.

Outbreaks



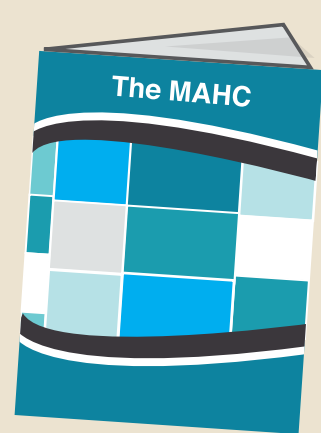
- Recreational water illness outbreaks up from 15 a year (1993–2002) to 34 a year (2003–2012). A single outbreak can sicken thousands.

Chemical Injuries



- Almost 5,000 people visited the ER in 2012 for an injury linked to a pool chemical. Almost half were under 18 years of age.

The Solution: Use the MAHC

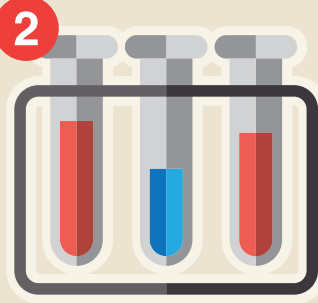


1



To update existing codes for public swimming pools and other aquatic venues

2



To incorporate guidelines into state and local aquatic programs

3



However you want: use or modify the entire MAHC or pieces of it

The MAHC is **NOT** a federal law. It's voluntary, model guidance to help reduce the burden on state and local pool programs that individually write their own codes.

The Public Health Impact

The MAHC can help:



Prevent drowning, illness, and injury



Raise minimum standards and reduce inspection violations



Keep pools open for more summer and year-round fun

Help make swimming healthier and safer.



Learn more about
The Model Aquatic Health Code:
www.cdc.gov/mahc

